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DEC 18 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 31-34 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Aldous (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,669) in view of Mengelt (U.S. Patent No. 5,579,197) and further in view of Oh (U.S. Pub. 2002/0065618); and claims 6 and 36 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Aldous (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,669) in view of Mengelt (U.S. Patent No. 5,579,197) in view of Oh (U.S. Pub. 2002/0065618) and further in view of Pascucci (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,115).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowability and favorable treatment of claims 5, 16-19, 21-22 and 35. Claims 1-4, 6, 16-19, 21-22, 31-34 and 36 are currently pending in this application. Claims 8-15 and 23-30 have been withdrawn. Claims 5 and 35 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 31 have been amended. The rejections above have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1-4, 6, 31-34 and 36.

2. Claim 1 was rejected based on the combination of Aldous, Mengelt and Oh. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. For this reason, Applicant believes that claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

3. Claim 31 was rejected based on the combination of Aldous, Mengelt and Oh. Claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 35. For this reason, Applicant believes that claim 31 and claims 32-34 and 36 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

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For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1-4, 6, 16-19, 21-22, 31-34, 36 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

No additional fees are due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (SIG000096).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

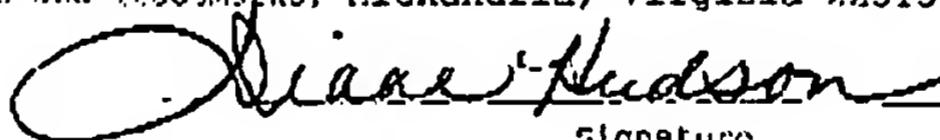
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to fax number (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on the date below:

12/18/2006

Date

Diane Hudson

Signature